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COAST GUARD AWARDS CONTRACT TO ACCELERATE DESIGN OF THE MARITIME SECURITY CUTTER, MEDIUM

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard has awarded a contract to Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS) to begin the design and final requirements work for the Maritime Security Cutter, Medium (WMSM, formerly known as the Offshore Patrol Cutter), part of the Coast Guard’s Integrated Deepwater System (IDS) Program. This contract will advance the projected launch date for the cutter to 2012, approximately three years ahead of the Deepwater Program’s original schedule.

“The contract award for the Maritime Security Cutter, Medium is another significant milestone in the Deepwater Program,” said Rear Adm. Patrick M. Stillman, Program Executive Officer for the Integrated Deepwater System. “Together with the delivery of the Maritime Security Cutter, Large, this medium-sized cutter will help to ensure the Coast Guard is able to fulfill its multimission responsibilities as well as to safeguard sovereignty, security, and safety in our homeland waters.”

The design lead on the WMSM is Northrop Grumman Ship Systems. Lockheed Martin is responsible for the codevelopment of the engineering design and system integration. The notional design of the WMSM anticipates a 341-foot vessel with similar capabilities and equipment as the Maritime Security Cutter, Large (WMSL, formerly known as the National Security Cutter).

The Integrated Deepwater System is the largest recapitalization effort in the over 214-year history of the Coast Guard—a multiyear program to modernize and replace aging ships and aircraft that will be linked with state-of-the-art C4ISR systems supported by an integrated logistics regime. The Deepwater acquisition of ships, airplanes, helicopters, and unmanned air vehicles will provide full interoperability with other Coast Guard platforms while meeting the full range of Coast Guard missions. The program’s multibillion-dollar contract was awarded in June 2002 to Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS), a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. ICGS is the Coast Guard’s prime contractor, systems integrator, and industry partner for the Deepwater Program.

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